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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of the Borough
for the Year 1944

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor E. S. Mackrill (Chairman).
Alderman Mrs. Paterson, O.B.E. (The Mayor).
Alderman J. J. Evett (Deputy Mayor).
" P. R. Eaton.
Councillor Mrs. Coventon, M.B.E.
" J. Fryer.
" T. Goodchild.
" C. Harris.
" F. B. Howard.
" W. Johnson (deceased).
" A. West.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Barrister at Law.

Sanitary Inspectors.

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

E. Birch, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector (from 17th January, 1944).

†Douglas Andrew, A.R.San.I.
Junior Sanitary Inspector.

Clerical Staff.

*Dennis W. Rixon.
*Douglas A. Keen.
Miss P. Turing.
Miss E. Janes.

*At present serving in H.M. Forces.
†Prisoner of War in Japanese hands.

Borough of Aylesbury

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Aylesbury.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting the annual report for 1944 for the Borough of Aylesbury.

As I only became your Acting Medical Officer in March, 1945, I have no personal knowledge of the facts recorded in the report, but am indebted to the able staff for the statistics, and have simply commented on some of the implications of these returns. However, some of my remarks are based on personal observation of conditions which appertain to both 1944 and the present time.

On behalf of Dr. Sims-Roberts and the health department staff I should like to record their appreciation of your co-operation and confidence.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DORIS CRITCHLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres
Population	19,910
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944 according to Rate Books	4,838
Rateable Value	£144,545
Sum represented by a penny rate	£569

Unemployment.

At December 31st, 1944:—	At December 31st, 1943:—
— women	— women
— men	— men
— Total	— Total

Vital Statistics.

	1944			1943		
	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	369	178	191	276	135	141
Illegitimate	20	8	12	19	13	6
Still Births—Legitimate	6	4	2	11	9	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	—	1

395

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1944 19.54 (1943—15.21)

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 19.84 (1943—15.82)

	1944			1943		
	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	198	107	91	194	95	99

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population... 9.94 (1943—10.00)

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
	1944	1943	1944	1943
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	1	—	2.53	—

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	1944			1943		
	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	5	1	12	7	5
Illegitimate	3	2	1	—	—	—
Totals	9	7	2	12	7	5

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	23.14	(1943—40.68)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.26	(1943—43.48)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	150.00	(1943— —)

	1944			1943		
	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30	19	11	25	9	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	1	1	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Analysis of Deaths:—

Tuberculosis Respiratory	6
„ Non-Respiratory	2
Syphilitic diseases	2
Influenza	4
Whooping Cough	—
Cancer	30
Diabetes	3
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	25
Heart Disease	48
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	8
Bronchitis	11
Pneumonia	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	6
Other Digestive Diseases	5
Nephritis	4
Other Maternal Causes	1
Premature Birth	5
Congenital Malformation, etc.	3
Suicide	1
Road Traffic Accident	3
Other Violent Causes	4
Death from all other Causes	19

There is a slight fall in death rate from all causes, with a marked decline in the Infant Mortality, probably in part due to the improved Maternity and Child Welfare facilities and their appreciation and use by the population.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Aylesbury Joint Board Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury (69 beds, including 2 blocks of the cubicle type). The hospital is under the medical superintendence of the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough, and has a consultant surgeon.

Pathological Specimens.

Pathological Specimens are examined at:—

1. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, South Parks Road, Oxford.

2. The Stoke Mandeville Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Aylesbury.

Voluntary Hospital.

The town is served by the Royal Bucks Hospital, which also provides accommodation for the neighbouring districts. Although excellent work is carried out by this hospital, the accommodation and staff are inadequate to deal with the large demands on the hospital.

During 1944 temporary relief has been afforded by the Tindal House E.M.S. Hospital and the Stoke Mandeville (Ministry of Pensions) E.M.S. Hospital, which have admitted cases (figures unobtainable, but running into hundreds) when no beds have been available at the Royal Bucks Hospital. If and when these auxiliary hospitals leave the area the need for extra hospital accommodation for the inhabitants of the Borough and district will become aggravated.

This urgent want is particularly applicable to the maternity beds, as even now the accommodation for such cases is extremely limited, and the demand for same will most likely be increased in the immediate post war years.

Ambulance Services of the Borough.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade maintain three ambulances for dealing with accident and other cases. The ambulance services of the Borough are adequate.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre, situate in Church Row, is under the control of the Bucks County Council, and is open as an Infant Welfare Clinic every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The premises are also used as a dental clinic for children of school age.

The urgent need for maternity beds has been stressed above.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation has continued to be carried out during the year. One hundred and nineteen school children have been inoculated at the monthly school clinic, Pebble Lane, Aylesbury; two hundred and fifty-three children under the age of five have been immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre.

Government Sick Bay.

Number treated:—Forty-one in-patients, nineteen out-patients.

Minor ailments occurring amongst the evacuees have been treated in the Sick Bay at 9, Bicester Road. The number actually treated during the year has been insufficient to task the staff maintained. The need for this Sick Bay has now ceased.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

The County Council is a participant in the London and Home Counties Joint Scheme operated by the London County Council, so that local victims of these diseases may receive free treatment, either at the Royal Bucks Hospital, or any other approved clinic.

The number of cases of venereal diseases amongst Aylesbury inhabitants receiving treatment at the Royal Bucks Clinic during 1944 was forty-four. This does not include those local inhabitants who seek treatment at other centres.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Borough receives its water supply from the wells by the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company.

The supply has been satisfactory in quality, but not always in quantity, the supply having to be cut off at night during the summer period.

No analysis has been made of the raw water, but eleven samples from tap supply have been taken during the year, and in each case the result was satisfactory.

All save two houses in the Borough are supplied directly from public water mains, the exceptions having private wells.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is on the partially separate system, surface water from streets and buildings being discharged to water-courses at various points. Owing to the differences in level, four localities are provided with pumping stations to lift the sewage into the main sewers. These are situated at Mandeville Road, Buckingham Road, California and Tring Road.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated near the boundary of the town, continues to function satisfactorily.

Public Conveniences.

The supervision of these conveniences is under the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The town is well served by the conveniences for both sexes under the island in Kingsbury Square, used as a centre for omnibus services, and also at the Vale Ground, High Street; there is a gentlemen's convenience adjoining the Cattle Market, and temporary urinals in Upper Hundreds and Walton Road.

Public Cleansing.

This has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections made under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	741
Butchers' Shops	136
Food Shops	854
Dairies and Cowsheds	243
Bakehouses	45
Infected House Visits	25

Open Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.

The purification of the water in the open-air Swimming Pool continues to be satisfactory.

Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.

These premises have only been used for slipper baths during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Sixty-two rooms have been disinfested against bed bugs; "Thermotox" gas blocks and "Zaldecide" insecticide being used successfully.

Schools.

The general sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools in the Borough is good, and the water supply is sufficient.

Local Rainfall.

JANUARY	1.60 inches	JULY	1.76 inches
FEBRUARY	1.02 "	AUGUST	1.95 "
MARCH	0.19 "	SEPTEMBER	1.09 "
APRIL	1.63 "	OCTOBER	3.58 "
MAY	1.04 "	NOVEMBER	3.31 "
JUNE	2.14 "	DECEMBER	1.38 "

Total rainfall for the year = 20.69 inches.

The average rainfall for the last 39 years is 24.94 inches. (Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Surveyor).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Pasteurisation is carried out on a large scale at Messrs. Nestles' and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society's premises. Numerous samples were taken during the year to ensure that the plants were working satisfactorily.

The following milk retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk in the Borough:—

"Tuberculin Tested."

1. Mr. R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairies, Hartwell.
2. Messrs. J. Lisley & Son, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
3. Mr. F. J. Davis (Junior), "Homefield," Bierton.
4. Mr. R. S. Pearce, Marsh Road, Stoke Mandeville.
5. Mr. A. Warren, St. John's Street, Aylesbury.
6. Messrs. Nestles Milk Products, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.

"Pasteurised."

1. Aylesbury Co-operative Society.
2. Mr. S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Burcott Lane, Bierton.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,385	563	2,344	6,474	93
Number inspected	1,385	563	2,344	6,474	93
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	8	15	13	31	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	195	145	3	167	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	14.65%	28.42%	0.68%	3.06%	5.37%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	12	24	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	156	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.12%	31.97%	—	—	4.3%

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year was 62 tons, 9 cwt., 1 qr., 22¾lbs.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Details are given below of the infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases. Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	10	2	—
Whooping Cough	24	8	—
Scarlet Fever	26	19	—
Pneumonia	21	13	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	—
Diphtheria	5	5	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	5	5	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Sonne Dysentery	17	17	—
Para-typhoid	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Malaria	12*	12	—

*Non-civilian cases.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year, with Analysis under Age Groups.

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	TOTALS.
Measles	0	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	10
Whooping Cough ...	6	4	1	3	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	2	4	11	2	1	4	0	1	0	26
Pneumonia	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	4	6	1	21
Puerperal Pyrexia...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	5
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sonne Dysentery ...	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	8	0	1	0	17
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	12
Para - typhoid	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ophthalmi Neonatorum ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Twenty-five visits were made to infected premises.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 —	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 —	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
15 —	4	4	1	0	1	0	1	0
25 —	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
35 —	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
45 —	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
55 —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	12	6	3	3	6	0	2	0

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, visits have been made to mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces, and informal action taken where necessary to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power...	67	Nil.	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power			

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	In respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	0	0	0	0

Sanitary Conveniences:—

(Sec. 7)				
Insufficient	2	1	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	2	0	0

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of outworkers' premises.

Borough of Aylesbury

Annual Report

of the

Borough Sanitary Inspector

1944.

Borough of Aylesbury

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
AYLESBURY.
February, 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during the year 1944.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYEYAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	59
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	21
Nuisances, etc., abated	54
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts	14
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	59
Prosecutions	Nil.

HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts was as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	243
Bakehouses	45
Butchers' Shops	136
Slaughterhouses	741
Food Shops	854
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	11
Infected House Visits (Excluding Tuberculosis cases)	14
Marine Stores	24
Miscellaneous Visits	320
	2,388

In addition to the above, other visits include those under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Public Conveniences, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, Petroleum Act, Disinfestation of Vermin Infested Properties, and Inspection of Billets. These are all shown under their respective headings in this Report.

HOUSING ACT, 1935.

Active work under the above-mentioned Act is still in abeyance, but 110 inspections and 78 re-inspections have been carried out. In only one case was it necessary to take statutory action to enforce the execution of repairs.

Under the Government's scheme of priority for works of an urgent and essential character 34 certificates of essentiality were issued during the year. This has entailed a considerable amount of work in checking applications and supervising work in progress, and on one occasion it was necessary to interview the Regional Licensing Officer at Reading to enable work which ultimately provided an additional flat, to be proceeded with.

In addition to the normal work of repair carried out under this scheme, alterations which have had the effect of providing additional accommodation in the Borough to the extent of 5 flats have been approved and executed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

One hundred and fifty-two notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, as follows:—

Measles	10
Whooping Cough	24
Scarlet Fever	26
Pneumonia	21
Tuberculosis	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Erysipelas	Nil.
Diphtheria	5
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Typhoid	Nil.
Sonne Dysentery	17
Para-typhoid	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil.
Malaria	12
	152

Rooms disinfected	5
Visits to infected premises	14

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Mechanical Factories on the register requiring visiting	52
Non-Mechanical Factories on the register requiring visiting	54
Visits paid to factories	67

PREMISES ON THE REGISTER REQUIRING VISITING

Bakehouses	13
Dairies	13
Cowsheds	8
	34

Visits paid to Bakehouses	45
Visits paid to Cowsheds and Dairies	243
	288

NOTICES SERVED re CLEANSING, WATER SUPPLY, Etc.

Cowsheds and Dairies	16
Bakehouses	26
Factories and Workplaces	—
	42

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

Three Cowkeepers within the Borough are licensed by the County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk. Another Cowkeeper is licensed by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold "Pasteuriser's" licences, five milk purveyors are licensed to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and one to retail "Pasteurised" milk, and another purveyor is licensed to bottle and retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk. These licences are issued by the Borough Council.

Forty-nine samples of milk were taken during the year, the majority of which satisfied the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order. In the case of those which failed to reach the required standard investigations were made and the source of failure eliminated, further samples proving satisfactory.

Following complaints of poor keeping quality of Pasteurised milk supplied in the Borough exhaustive investigations were made, and apart from one period round Whitsun, no evidence was discovered which could support the complaints; on the contrary, from evidence produced by some of the largest consumers of Pasteurised milk in the Borough it was evident that the Pasteurisation was efficiently carried out consistently throughout the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouse Inspections	741
Butchers' Shops Inspections	136
Food Shops Inspections	854

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:—

	Bulls	Steers	Hfrs.	Cows	Clvs.	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st Qr.	27	106	63	143	663	1,192	34	2,228
2nd Qr.	37	216	73	97	384	1,093	11	1,911
3rd Qr.	12	219	178	101	534	1,582	19	2,645
4th Qr.	4	231	219	222	763	2,607	29	4,075
Total	80	772	533	563	2,344	6,474	93	10,859

The number of carcases examined was as follows:—

	Killed.	Examined.	Percentage
Bulls	80	80	100%
Steers	772	772	100%
Heifers	533	533	100%
Cows	563	563	100%
Calves	2,344	2,344	100%
Sheep	6,474	6,474	100%
Pigs	93	93	100%
Total	10,859	10,859	100%

The following unsound food was surrendered during 1944:—

Cow Beef	17,912 lbs.
Cow Offals	13,187½ ,,
Other Beef	8,000 ,,
Other Bovine Offals	10,777 ,,
Pork	816 ,,
Pork Offals	202 ,,
Mutton	1,441½ ,,
Mutton Offals	572½ ,,
Veal	623½ ,,
Miscellaneous	86,406¾ ,,
	139,938¾ ,,

Total:—62 tons, 9 cwt., 1 quarter, 22¾lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,385	563	2,344	6,474	93
Number inspected	1,385	563	2,344	6,474	93
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	8	15	13	31	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	195	145	3	167	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	14.65%	28.42%	0.68%	3.06%	5.37%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	12	24	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	156	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.12%	31.97%	—	—	4.3%

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government control.

For the time being all slaughterhouse licences except those premises under Government control have been suspended. The annual licences for slaughtermen, of course, continue.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of petroleum spirit..... 59
Licences issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium..... 5
Total fees received for the above licences ..... £46 15s. 0d.

Quantity licensed to be kept:—

Petroleum spirit ..... 125,904 gallons.
Carbide of Calcium ..... 1,560 lbs.

Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores 11

The reason for the reduction in the number of licences is due to War conditions, consequently the storage quantity and fees are less in proportion.

CANAL BOATS ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

During the whole of the year under review the branch of the canal serving Aylesbury has been closed due to lack of water, and no inspections have been possible.

SHOPS ACTS.

Strict supervision under the above-mentioned Acts is not so necessary as in times of peace, closing hours being now far below those allowed by the Acts.

5 visits were made during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Wilful damage and misuse at the premises without a full-time attendant continued and caused many complaints during the early part of the year. The conditions were partly due to changes in the staff, some of whom were unsatisfactory.

At the end of August two men were appointed to take charge of the unattended conveniences and to act as reliefs at Kingsbury Square, and since that date the complaints regarding the condition of these conveniences have fallen to negligible proportions, and the amount of damage done has also declined.

409 visits were made during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

A very appreciable amount of work has been done under this heading, as will be seen from the following summary.

The Committee appreciate the difficulties of administration caused by the Ministry's insistence on recovery of costs of work of rodent destruction from the occupiers of property, and further comment on my part in this report would be superfluous.

Number of complaints received	58
Number of premises cleared of rate ...	59
Number of premises cleared of mice ...	8
Estimated number of rats destroyed ...	850
Actual rats' bodies found	176
Visits of inspection	203
Visits for baiting and extermination ...	332
This has entailed the following visits	535

In addition to the above Mr. S. Skoyles has continued to deal with certain premises in the Borough, and estimates to have destroyed 273 rats.

WATER SUPPLY.

Eleven samples have been submitted to the Analyst during the year and all were found to be fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

BILLETS.

All possible assistance has been given to the Billeting Officer and the W.V.S. to ensure that proposed billets are

clean and suitable for the purpose. This procedure also provides the opportunity when claims for damage to billets occur, to form a clear judgment upon the responsibility for such. The number of billets inspected was 575, and this necessitated 720 visits.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation of premises against vermin has been carried out by gassing and spraying, whilst the gassing chamber at the rear of Church House has been used for the treatment of bedding and clothing, and in all cases where bedding has been used in billets this has been done before sending same to the laundry.

The gassing chamber mentioned above was in use on thirteen occasions.

62 rooms were treated against vermin.

FOOD DECONTAMINATION.

Lectures and demonstrations in food decontamination were continued during the early part of the year, but have been discontinued since the reduction in Civil Defence duties. The members of the squad continue to hold themselves available for duty should the necessity arise.

GENERAL.

The foregoing sets out briefly the main work of the Department during the year, but it is of course impossible, in a report such as this, to indicate the various visits, interviews and miscellaneous duties incurred throughout the year.

No further news has been received of Douglas Andrew. Dennis Rixon is still on service in England, and Douglas Keen in India.

Mr. E. Birch, who was seconded from the Bradford City Council, commenced his duties with the Department on 17th January. Mr. Birch has carried out all the duties entrusted to him in an efficient and tactful manner, and his assistance has been of great value to me.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their continued help and encouragement, to members of my staff for their loyal co-operation, and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.